

## **MARSHFIELD'S COVID – 19 TASK FORCE**

**April 8, 2020**

**Task Force:** Police, Fire, Board of Health, Board of Selectmen, Emergency Operation Center, Town Administrator, Schools, DPW and Council on Aging.

Town Hall, the Ventress Library, Marshfield Senior Center, and the Recreation Center at Coast Guard Hill remain closed to the general public in order to assist in combatting the pandemic caused by COVID-19 virus, protecting our residents and employees.

The Marshfield Senior Center is closed but the staff reports to work as usual. All programs have been suspended except for meals on wheels and friendly check-in calls. Please continue to do your part by checking in with family, friends and neighbors by phone or online.

Dog Licensing started Wednesday April 1, 2020. Mail-in and on-line only. The Town Clerk's Office is working with a reduced staff so it may take a few days for your application to process. All tags will be mailed.

Most beach parking lots are closed, but beaches remain open. The DPW has closed all fields and the community track at the school complex. Please follow social distancing protocols.

Contractors in need of Building Permits must call ahead to the Building Department at 781-834-5555 to make an appointment. The Building Department will only be conducting outside inspections during the pandemic.

In an overabundance of precaution The Board of Health has directed gyms, massage parlors, nail salons, and micro-blading to be closed. Stellwagon Brewery will be allowed to conduct retail sales but no drinking in the establishment. Establishments which have self-service items, hot food and salad bars will be told to pre-package these items for the consumer to buy.

The Board of Health continues monitoring all small business in town for compliance with closures or restrictions in operation. Situations can change instantly please weigh the RISKS vs. the REWARD before choosing to do any activity. PREVENTION is the BEST MEDICINE stay at HOME.

### **Key Public Health Messages for All Residents:**

Protect yourself by following public health advice about keeping your hands clean and covering coughs and sneezes. Stay home if you are sick. Protect others who are most

at risk of COVID-19 by keeping your distance from people (at least 6 feet away from others), especially those who are older, and people living with chronic health conditions. If you are outside, avoid crowds. Don't shake hands or hug. Stay connected to friends and loved ones by phone or through other technology. Get information from trusted sources. Visit <https://www.mass.gov/covid19> for the latest news, case counts, and lab testing results.

**Take care of your emotional health and help others do the same during these stressful times, call 2-1-1 and choose the "CALL2TALK" option.**

The Department of Public Health issued an [emergency order regarding grocery store operations](#) and occupancy limits. The order sets maximum permissible occupancy limits and provides other guidance.

**Nursing Home Resource Line:** The Baker-Polito Administration also announced the launch of a new Nursing Home Family Resource Line, a dedicated telephone line that will connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Call the line at (617) 660-5399.

**Nursing Home Mobile Testing Program:** Building on efforts to protect high-risk populations like older adults, the Baker-Polito Administration has launched a program to allow for safe, rapid on-site testing of residents of long-term care facilities like nursing homes and rest homes. The initiative is being completed as a partnership between the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the Massachusetts National Guard and the testing being conducted by the BROAD institute. So far, the National Guard has been deployed to 80 facilities across the state and has completed more than 1,300 tests since this program started last week. Starting yesterday, DPH worked to expand the program by providing an option for places to use their on-site medical personnel to collect specimens and send them to the state lab for testing. DPH issued new guidance to nursing homes and rest homes with recommendations aimed at protecting the health of residents and health care workers and mitigating the risk of transmission of COVID-19, both inside and outside of these facilities.

**Nursing Home Resource Line:** The Baker-Polito Administration also announced the launch of a new Nursing Home Family Resource Line, a dedicated telephone line that will connect family members of nursing home and rest home residents with the information and resources they need. This resource was created so that family and community members have one central contact that they can reach out to if they have questions or concerns about the care their loved one is receiving during the COVID-19 outbreak. The line is staffed from 9 AM – 5 PM, seven days a week. Staff will coordinate across state agencies to help callers find answers to their questions. Families and community members can call the line at (617) 660-5399.

We are grateful for your tireless work every day to support persons with COVID-19 and to stop the spread of the disease.

**COVID-19 Information for Local Boards of Health** - <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/covid-19-information-for-local-boards-of-health>

**COVID-19 web site:** [www.mass.gov/covid19](http://www.mass.gov/covid19)

**DPH Webs**

**CDC on Homemade Cloth Face Coverings: Cloth face coverings fashioned from household items or made at home from common materials at low cost can be used as an additional, voluntary public health measure.**

- Cloth face coverings should not be placed on young children under age 2, anyone who has trouble breathing, fit snugly but comfortably against the side of the face
- be secured with ties or ear loops
- allow for breathing without restriction
- Should cloth face coverings be washed or otherwise cleaned regularly? How regularly? Yes. They should be routinely washed depending on the frequency of use.
- How does one safely sterilize/clean a cloth face covering? A washing machine should suffice in properly washing a face covering or Drop in boiling water for 10 seconds and allow to air dry.
- How does one safely remove a used cloth face covering? Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing their face covering and wash hands immediately after removing.

All Town of Marshfield bills can be paid on-line by going to the Town's website at [www.townofmarshfield.org](http://www.townofmarshfield.org) and selecting the icon "Find it Fast" and it will say on-line bill payment. Residents can also drop their payments into the payment slot at the front of Town Hall. Beach stickers and transfer stickers may be purchased on-line for your convenience.

The Town is in the process of establishing remote meeting protocols for all boards, commissions and committees to continue the essential business of the Town.

**Persons who have experienced any symptoms associated with COVID-19 are directed not to visit any of the facilities, but instead seek medical assistance and self-quarantine.**

The Recreation Department has closed all parks and playgrounds effective immediately to keep our children and family members safe. Please remind your children not to congregate in large groups at the parks and playgrounds. We want everyone to be safe.

The Marshfield Fire Department will be suspending all inspections. The MFD will also be limiting public access to all fire stations except for emergencies. **For anyone calling 911 or requests Emergency Services from first responders, please notify the dispatcher on the telephone if anyone in the residence has any flu like symptoms or any respiratory issues.** People donating any PPE Equipment that they would like to donate to the MFD for EMS, they can leave it at Headquarters at the door and call the business line at 781 837-1315 to let the dispatcher know that it is there. Some people are finding the door locked and just leaving with their supplies if duty shift is not in station because they are out on calls. And also that we appreciate all of the donations of equipment that we have already received.

The Marshfield Public Schools will be closed until May 4. For more information on our schools, please check out the Marshfield Public School website at [www.MPSD.org](http://www.MPSD.org).

### **Grab N Go Breakfast & Lunch Program**

Our Grab n Go breakfast and lunch bags will continue to be available for those families in need of nutritional support in addition to those who rely on the school lunch program. You can drive to the Boys & Girls Club on Proprietors Drive between 8:00 AM and 11:00 AM on Monday and Thursdays for pick up.

### **Marshfield Food Pantry**

The Food Pantry is open the following days and hours: Tuesdays, 9:30AM -12:30PM, Wednesday, 6:30PM – 8:30PM, Friday, 9:30AM -12:30PM and every other Saturday, 10AM – 1:00PM (this Saturday, April 11, 2020) they will be open. For more information visit the Food Pantry at [www.marshfieldfoodpantry.org](http://www.marshfieldfoodpantry.org).

For more information on the COVID-19 virus please visit the following websites: Board of Health, Town of Marshfield at [www.marshfield-ma.gov/board-health](http://www.marshfield-ma.gov/board-health) or the DPH at [www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus](http://www.mass.gov/2019coronavirus) or the CDC at [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus). **State Health Officials Announce Launch of 2-1-1 to Provide COVID-19 Information and Referrals 24/7.**

Together we will all get through this very difficult situation. Please know that our first responders are working around the clock to keep us all safe. We ask that you remind your children not to get together in groups. It is very important that we all remember follow social distancing protocols when interacting with everybody.

For the latest update on numbers of Covid 19 cases please see the attached link: <https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-cases-in-massachusetts-as-of-april-7-2020/download>

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding. Please continue to follow updates on our website daily. Thanks for your continued support to our businesses with take out or deliveries.

Michael A. Maresco  
Town Administrator